# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4537
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2007
TARIFF CONCESSIONS
Patil Shri Balasaheb Vikhe

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government is examining the possibility of extending unilateral tariff concessions to least developed countries for import and export;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main purpose of providing such concessions;

(c) whether agricultural items are also included in these concessions;

(d) if so, the extent to which such concessions will affect Indian agricultural items and farmers in particular; and

(e) the details of other countries to whom such concessions are being provided?

## Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d): The Government is examining the issue of grant of unilateral tariff preferences to least developed countries (LDCs). The main objective of any such scheme would be to provide an integrated development assistance to help in their economic development. No decision has been taken on any of the parameters including the coverage of the sectors under the proposed scheme.

(e): Under the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), India has unilaterally decided to grant the following concessions to the LDCs in South Asia ( Bangladesh, Bhutan , Nepal and Maldives):

(i) eliminate tariffs in a two year time frame instead of three years as proposed earlier

(ii) India's sensitive list will also be unilaterally reduced for all South Asian LDCs

(iii) Tariff rate quota (TRQ) has been provided on garments to Bangladesh without any sourcing condition or port restriction.